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INDOCHINA.

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NSA review completed

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NSC BRIEFING

20 May 1954

INDOCHINA

I. Danger to Laos and Cambodia

A. Nervous atmosphere both
Cambodia and Laos, awaiting
Viet Minh next move.

1. Laos government plans

UN appeal if new

invasion in force.

(NOW SOME 6,000 VIET MINH REGULARS IN LAOS)

2. Laos regulars total

only 20,000. Incapable
repulsing heavy invasion,
would need substantial
additional French
reinforcement -- to
about 10,000 French
Union regulars already
there.

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C. However, if French command in Tonkin delta can develop any spirit and capability, Viet Minh military threat to Laos, Cambodia can be checked by attack supply lines. Thus delta still #1 target.

II. Delta

A.



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B. French believe Viet Minh will not make major delta attack this summer unless necessary on basis political factors or to capitalize on low French Union morale.

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C. In absence such decision, French
expect Viet Minh will:

1. Expand delta harassment.
2. Regroup regulars for
major effort in autumn.

D. In delta this week, most
significant Viet Minh action
was regiment-strength attack
near Phu Ly (60 miles south
Hanoi).

1. French counterattack
successful.
2. Losses both sides
"heavy."